
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule having a sense strand and an antisense strand that mediates RNA interference, wherein:

(a) each strand is between 18 and 27 nucleotides in length;

(b) the sense strand comprises 10 or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, ~~or~~ 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides, and a terminal cap molecule at the 3'-end, the 5'-end, or both 3' and 5'-ends of the sense strand; and

~~(b)~~(c) the antisense strand comprises 10 or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl and, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides.

53. (Currently amended) The siRNA molecule of claim ~~45~~52, wherein 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense and antisense strands are 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.

54. (Currently amended) The siRNA molecule of claim ~~45~~52, wherein the sense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

55. (Currently amended) The siRNA molecule of claim ~~45~~52, wherein the antisense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

56. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim ~~45~~52 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.